

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.– 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:4 ~~No:4~~ or its full length complementary strand.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The isolated nucleic acid ~~according to claim 11~~ comprising:
a) sequence ~~having at least 80% identity with the sequence~~ encoding a dextranucrase expressed by the plasmid pCR-Ty-dsrD deposited at the CNCM on 15th March 2001 with accession number I-2649; or
b) a full length complementary sequence to the sequence in a).

14. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 13~~ claim 12 or claim 13.

15. (Previously Presented) The expression vector according to claim 14, in which the nucleic acid is under the control of a sequence allowing its expression in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells.

16. (Currently Amended) A host cell transformed by a nucleic acid according to claim 9 12 or a vector according to claim 14.

17. (Previously Presented) The transformed host cell according to claim 16, selected from the group comprising E. coli, Leuconostocci, plants, Lactococci and Bacilli or yeasts.

18. (Previously Presented) The transformed host cell according to claim 17, wherein said transformed host cell is a strain of E. coli deposited at the CNCM on 15th March 2001 with accession number I-2649.

19. – 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an enzyme with glycosyltransferase activity that can form dextrans having $\alpha(1\rightarrow2)$ linkages from saccharose, α -D-fluoroglucose, paranitrophenyl- α -D glucopyranoside, α -D-glucopyranoside- α -D sorbofuranoside or 4-O- α -D galactopyranosylsucrose and comprising at least one nucleotide sequence encoding a catalytic domain of SEQ ID ~~NO:3~~ **NO:3** and located 3' of a sequence encoding a glucan binding domain.

29. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of SEQ ID ~~NO:4~~ **NO:4** or its full length complementary strand.

30. (Currently Amended) A host cell transformed by a nucleic acid according to claim ~~10~~ **28**.

31. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) A host cell transformed by a nucleic acid according to claim 13.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A host cell transformed by a an expression vector according to claim 15.

36. (New) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 28, wherein said glucan binding domain is between said two sequences encoding said catalytic domains.